

SHUBAEL GOULD.

APRIL 3, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SULLOWAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1310.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1310) granting an increase of pension to Shubael Gould, having carefully considered the same, adopt the accompanying Senate report (No. 127) as their own, and respectfully recommend the passage of the bill.

[Senate report No. 127, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.]

The claimant under this bill enlisted December 24, 1863, and was discharged June 28, 1865. He was pensioned at \$16 per month for disease of right leg, which was subsequently increased to \$24 and \$30, the pensionable causes being stated on these occasions as disease of right leg and resulting debility. He applied for further increase, which was rejected on the ground that the then existing condition was due in part to other causes.

Soldier is at present in a totally helpless condition, requiring the constant attendance of another person, one side being entirely paralyzed, and the heart's action disturbed. In his behalf it is contended that this condition is due to the progress of the disease for which he is pensioned, but the Pension Bureau took the ground that the paralysis was of cerebral origin, and hence not directly traceable to pensionable causes.

Claimant has had many medical examinations, all physicians agreeing that he is in a deplorable and hopeless condition. The last two examinations gave the pulse rate at 100 and 120, respectively, and respiration at 36. He suffers greatly, being constantly restless, and the probabilities are that he will not survive many months. The examining boards give him a first-grade rating.

Dr. O. B. Way, of Claremont, N. H., his attending physician, describes his condition as one of extreme and hopeless suffering. Dr. Sanborn, of Newport, N. H., who was sent by the Pension Bureau with special instructions to examine into the causes of soldier's present condition, reported as follows:

"Mr. Gould is very feeble and confined to his bed with marked emaciation and tremor of whole body; almost complete loss of motion in left leg, and but slight sensation; can not stand alone or feed himself; action of heart very weak and rapid; integuments on legs discolored as per diagram, with ulceration of left leg; he requires regular aid and attendance of another person by reason of pensioned disabilities. I consider the apoplectic stroke which Mr. Gould is suffering from, causing hemiplegia of left side, the result of his general debility, caused by phlebitis and ulceration of leg."

A subsequent examination by the same physician disclosed a similar condition, and he recommended that he be pensioned accordingly. Had the testimony of these medical men, who personally saw and examined the soldier, been accepted, he would have been granted \$72 per month, but the medical officers of the Pension Bureau, in their discretion and wisdom, refused to accept the view that the existing condition was wholly due to pensionable causes, and rejected the claim.

The bill under consideration increases the pension from \$30 to \$50, and your committee are of opinion that it should become a law.